

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 have been amended. New claims 10 and 11 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, and 9-11 are pending.

The Office Action examined claim 1-9. However, claims 1, 4, and 7 had been previously amended and claims 2, 5, and 8 had been canceled by an amendment under PCT Article 19(1), submitted with the National Stage application on 03/28/2006. The correctly amended claims appear in the published application (US 2007/0165177 A1).

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 may be found in paragraphs 0059 and 0063 of the published application.

Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel

Claims have been amended, and claims have been canceled, notwithstanding the belief that these claims were allowable. Except as specifically admitted below, no claim elements have been narrowed. Rather, cosmetic amendments have been made to the claims and to broaden them in view of the cited art. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 have been amended solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process, and the amendments were not necessary for patentability.

Any reference herein to “the invention” is intended to refer to the specific claim or claims being addressed herein. The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application, except for arguments specifically directed to the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 7-9 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by *Hida et al.* (US 5,936,695). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The fundamental principles of claim rejections under 35 USC § 102 are stated in MPEP §2131 as follows:

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

“The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Specifically, the rejection of independent claim 7 is traversed on the grounds that *Hida* does not expressly or inherently describe the element “a sealing material that is applied to the first substrate from a start point to an end point, the start point and end point at predetermined positions with respect to the specified figure”.

Hida describes (col. 2, lines 36-48) a liquid crystal display device comprising first and second substrates, liquid crystal material held in a gap formed between the first and second substrates, and a layer of sealing material disposed in the gap, the sealing material provided with one or more opening regions for injecting the liquid crystal material. *Hida* further describes that alignment marks are disposed within the opening regions on both substrates, and that the alignment marks may be used to align the first and second substrates when the liquid crystal device is assembled.

Hida also describes (col. 3, lines 28-42) a process for fabricating a liquid crystal display device including a step of “disposing a sealing member on said first or second substrates so as to surround said display region while forming one or more opening regions for injecting a liquid crystal material”. However, *Hida* does not describe, in as complete detail as contained in claim 7, that the sealing material is “applied to the first substrate from a start point to an end point, the start point and end point at predetermined positions with respect to the specified figure”.

Since *Hida* fails to expressly or inherently describe, in complete detail, at least one element of independent claim 7, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 and depending claim 9 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 USC § 103 as obvious from *Hida* in view of *Lee* (US 6,844,911 B2). Claims 2 and 5 were previously canceled. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 3

With respect to independent claim 1, the cited references fail to show the elements “determining a start point and an end point in relationship to the specified figure”, and “applying sealing material from the start point to the end point according to a predetermined pattern”. Because these elements are not found in either *Hida* or *Lee*, the rejection is not well founded and should be withdrawn.

Hida describes (col. 3, lines 28-42) a process for fabricating a liquid crystal display device including a step of “disposing a sealing member on said first or second substrates so as to surround said display region while forming one or more opening regions for injecting a liquid crystal material”. *Hida* also describes, throughout the description of the preferred embodiments, steps of recognizing alignment marks disposed the first and second substrates and using the marks to align the substrates during assembly of the liquid crystal display device. However, the steps of recognizing and using the alignment marks occur after the seal member has been disposed on one of the substrates. *Hida* does not teach or suggest that the alignment marks may be used to control the deposition of the seal member.

Lee, which was cited only for teaching cutting the joined substrates, does not remedy the deficiencies of *Hida*. *Lee*'s description of the process for forming a seal pattern (col. 2, lines 54-65) merely states that "a screen print method using a screen mask and a dispenser method using a dispenser are used for the seal patterning process". *Lee* does not teach or suggest that the alignment marks may be used to control the deposition of the seal member.

Since *Hida* and *Lee*, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least two elements of independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and depending claim 3 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Claims 4 and 6

With respect to independent claim 4, the cited references fail to show the elements "detecting the positions of the specified figure and the liquid crystal encapsulation opening" and "selecting a pair of substrates where the seal material is normally applied, the selecting based on the position of the liquid crystal encapsulation opening with respect to the specified figure". Because these elements are not found in either *Hida* or *Lee*, the rejection is not well founded and should be withdrawn.

Hida describes, throughout the specification, methods for recognizing alignment marks disposed on first and second substrates and using the marks to align the substrates during assembly of the liquid crystal display device. However, in contrast to claim 4, *Hida* does not teach or suggest that an alignment mark (specified figure) and the liquid crystal encapsulation opening are detected after the display device is assembled, or that the relative position of the alignment mark and the encapsulation opening may be used to select pairs of substrates for further processing. *Hida* appears to be silent on methods to inspect the deposition of the seal pattern and the position of the encapsulation opening.

Lee, which was cited only for teaching cutting the joined substrates, does not remedy the deficiencies of *Hida*. *Lee* also appears to be silent on methods to inspect the deposition of the seal pattern and the position of the encapsulation opening.

Since *Hida* and *Lee*, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least two elements of independent claim 4, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 and depending claim 3 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Conclusion

It is submitted, however, that the independent and dependent claims include other significant and substantial recitations which are not disclosed in the cited references. Thus, the claims are also patentable for additional reasons. However, for economy the additional grounds for patentability are not set forth here.

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

With respect to this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 503456. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, Applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

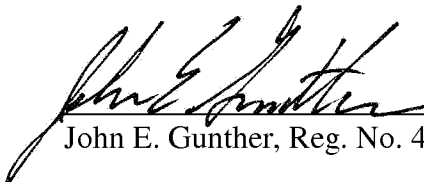
Appl. No. 10/595,234
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SoCal IP
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The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned registered practitioner to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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